



Brownfields 2008 Grant Fact Sheet

Calhoun County, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Calhoun County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in south-central Michigan, Calhoun County (population 137,985) contains 19 townships, four cities, and four villages. The county's economy historically was based primarily on manufacturing. However, between 1980 and 1990, manufacturing employment dropped nearly 22 percent because of plant closures. These closures have resulted in a population decline and left behind many abandoned buildings, factories, and vacant lots with potential environmental contamination. The county's unemployment rate is higher than the national average, and its poverty rate exceeds the statewide rate. Brownfields are community eyesores and represent unsafe conditions for county residents. Assessment of brownfields



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Calhoun County for a brownfields assessment grant. Petroleum grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize petroleum-contaminated brownfields throughout the county for assessment. Grant funds also will be used to conduct about eight Phase I, five Phase II, and three baseline environmental site assessments.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Calhoun County, MI
269-781-9841, ext. 232

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

is expected to increase public awareness and community participation in the brownfields process, and stimulate and support redevelopment of former industrial sites.